

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11, 13-24 were pending at the time of the Office Action.

Claims 1, 2, 7, and 13 are amended.

Claims 4 – 6, and 21-24 are cancelled.

Claims 1-3, 7-11, and 13 - 20 remain pending.

Claims 34 – 37 are added.

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving a request from a sending device, the request comprising a hierarchical identifier;

comparing the hierarchical identifier with at least a portion of a configuration file to identify an appropriate user-mode process of a server device for handling the request; and

providing the request to the identified appropriate user-mode process of the server device that directly handles the request by providing a response for transmission to the sending device.

2. (Currently amended) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:

generating the configuration file via a user-mode administrative process; and modifying the configuration file automatically in accordance with rules generated by an administrator.

3. (Previously amended) The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein generating the configuration file comprises:

defining one or more logical associations between at least one candidate hierarchical identifier and at least one candidate user-mode process; and

maintaining the one or more logical associations in a configuration store.

4 – 6 Cancelled

7. (Currently amended) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the request comprises a uniform resource locator (URL), the URL not including information specifying the process in the server that will handle the request.

8. (Previously amended) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the appropriate user-mode process includes a user-mode web server process.

9. (Previously amended) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the appropriate user-mode process comprises at least one user-mode worker process.

10. (Previously amended) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the request using a kernel-mode communication protocol process;

and

providing the request to a kernel-mode process.

11. (Previously amended) The method as recited in Claim 10, wherein the kernel-mode communication protocol process comprises a kernel-mode TCP/IP process.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

causing a request generated by a client device to be received in a server device using a kernel-mode process, the request comprising a hierarchical identifier associated with a client device;

~~causing a the kernel-mode process in a server device to compare a the hierarchical identifier associated with a client device-generated request~~ with at least a portion of a configuration file to identify a most applicable user-mode process for handling the client device generated request within the server device; and

causing the kernel-mode process to provide the client device generated request to the identified most applicable user-mode process that will provide a response to the request for the client device.

14. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, having further computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

causing a user-mode administrative process to generate the configuration file.

15. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 14, wherein causing the user-mode administrative process to generate the configuration file, further includes:

providing a configuration store suitable for access by the user-mode administrative process, wherein the configuration store defines one or more logical associations between at least one candidate hierarchical identifier and at least one candidate user-mode process.

16. (Previously amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 15, wherein the configuration store further includes one or more logical rules suitable for use by the kernel-mode process in identifying the most applicable user-mode process for handling the client device generated request within the server device.

17. (Previously amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein causing the kernel-mode process to provide the client device generated request to the identified most applicable user-mode process further includes:

providing a non-shared interface between the kernel-mode process and the identified most applicable user-mode process, such that the client device generated request can be provided to the identified most applicable user-mode process via the non-shared interface.

18. (Previously amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein causing the kernel-mode process to provide the client device generated request to the identified most applicable user-mode process further includes:

selectively queuing the client device generated request prior to providing the request to the identified most applicable user-mode process.

19. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the hierarchical identifier includes a uniform resource locator (URL).

20. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the most applicable user-mode process includes a user-mode web server process.

Claims 21 - 33 (Canceled)

34. (New) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein the configuration file comprises identifiers and corresponding user-mode process indicators for handling the request.

35. (New) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein the requests comprises a uniform resource locator (URL). wherein the configuration file contains elements stored as a tree-like arrangement and wherein comparing the hierarchical identifier comprises walking through a hierarchical portion of the URL to find best match or to reject the request if there is not a match.

36. (New) A method comprising:

receiving a request from a client device using a kernel-mode process, the request comprising a hierarchical identifier generated by a client device;

comparing the hierarchical identifier with at least a portion of a configuration file to identify an appropriate user-mode process of a server device for handling the request; and

providing the request to the identified appropriate user-mode process of the server device that directly handles the request by providing a response to the request for transmission to the sending device.

37. (New) The method as recited in Claim 36 wherein the request comprises a uniform resource locator (URL), wherein the configuration file contains elements stored as a tree-like arrangement and wherein comparing the hierarchical identifier comprises walking through a hierarchical portion of the URL to find best match or to reject the request if there is not a match.